

“The Amazing Grace of Our Mission”

Sermon Notes

- **The grace of God in the gospel of Christ is both unmerited favor and an unparalleled force (v.11)**

**Grace trains you to...*

1. _____ your love _____ with _____ (v.12a)

2. _____ your _____ to your _____ (v.12b)

Next Week: Titus 2:13 - “The Blessed Hope of Our Mission”

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of May 17th-23rd

Getting Started

1. In our study of Holy Scripture, it's important to distinguish indicatives from imperatives. The indicative mood is the mood of propositions and facts. The imperative mood is the mood of commands and requests. What mood is the message of the gospel? Why does it matter?

Digging Deeper

2. Consider how the following key pivot points in the pages of the Bible divide more or less into indicatives and imperatives:

- Exodus 20:1-2 (Indicative); 20:3-17 (Imperative)
- Romans 1-6:10 (Indicative); 6-16 (Imperative)
- Ephesians 1-3 (Indicative); 4-6 (Imperative)
- Colossians 1-2; (Indicative) 3-4 (Imperative)
- Hebrews 1-10:18 (Indicative); 10:19-13:25 (Imperative)

Why are the indicatives of the gospel absolutely foundational for our obedience to the imperatives we find in Scripture? What happens when we get these backwards?

Open Your Bible to Titus 2:11-12...

3. In our study of Titus thus far, we have encountered almost nothing but the imperative mood. That is, Titus 1:1-2:10 is almost pure command and exhortation. In Titus 2:11, that all changes. How do we know? What specific words in this verse signal that Paul has transitioned from good advice to good news?

4. Not to labor the point, but Titus 2:1-10 alone contains some 27 different imperative commands and exhortations. Scan briefly through Titus 2:1-10. How many can you spot? Notice now that every last one of these practical directions for Christian living is rooted firmly in the soil of the grace of God in verse 11. How ought this to encourage us?

5. In v.11, Paul says that: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people". Some have claimed that this verse teaches universalism (or the doctrine of universal salvation).¹ Universalism is the notion that all people will eventually be saved. Is that what this verse means? How do you know? How about in the additional verses cited in the footnote below? Do any of these teach universal salvation? What makes this such a critical issue for us in our mission?

¹ John 12:32; Acts 3:21; Romans 5:18; 11:32; 1 Corinthians 15:22-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Timothy 2:4; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2.

6. In Titus 2:12, we learn that grace trains us. Have you given much thought to that truth? What does it mean that grace trains us (as opposed to justifies us – see Titus 3:7)?

7. According to verse 12, grace trains us in both killing our sin and growing in conformity to Jesus. What does this look like in your life? How do you kill sin and become more like Christ? Consider taking 10 minutes in your group and listening to this 10-minute episode of Ask Pastor John: How Do I Live the Authentic Christian Life? In it, he unpacks the extraordinarily helpful and simple acronym A.P.T.A.T. as one means of living out verse 12. If you listened to it, what did you find useful? Can you imagine putting this to memory and applying it in your daily walk with the Lord? Explain.

8. The final words in Titus 2:12 are “...in the present age.” Notice that he could’ve said: “...in the age to come.”² But he didn’t. Why is this such an encouragement? What does this mean for us regarding the prospect of growth and change over the course of our Christian lives? What specific sins are you aiming to kill in your life right now? What particular aspects of holiness are you seeking to cultivate? According to v.11, what is our hope that (by the power of the Holy Spirit) these things can and will happen?

² There’s no doubt that in the age to come, we will live sanctified lives (1 John 3:2). And furthermore, that a fervent expectation of Christ’s soon return fuels our present growth in holiness (1 John 3:3). In fact, Paul deals with that very reality in the very next verse (Titus 2:13). Nevertheless, the emphasis in Titus 2:12 is related to the degrees of sanctification that we can fully expect to experience in the here and now.